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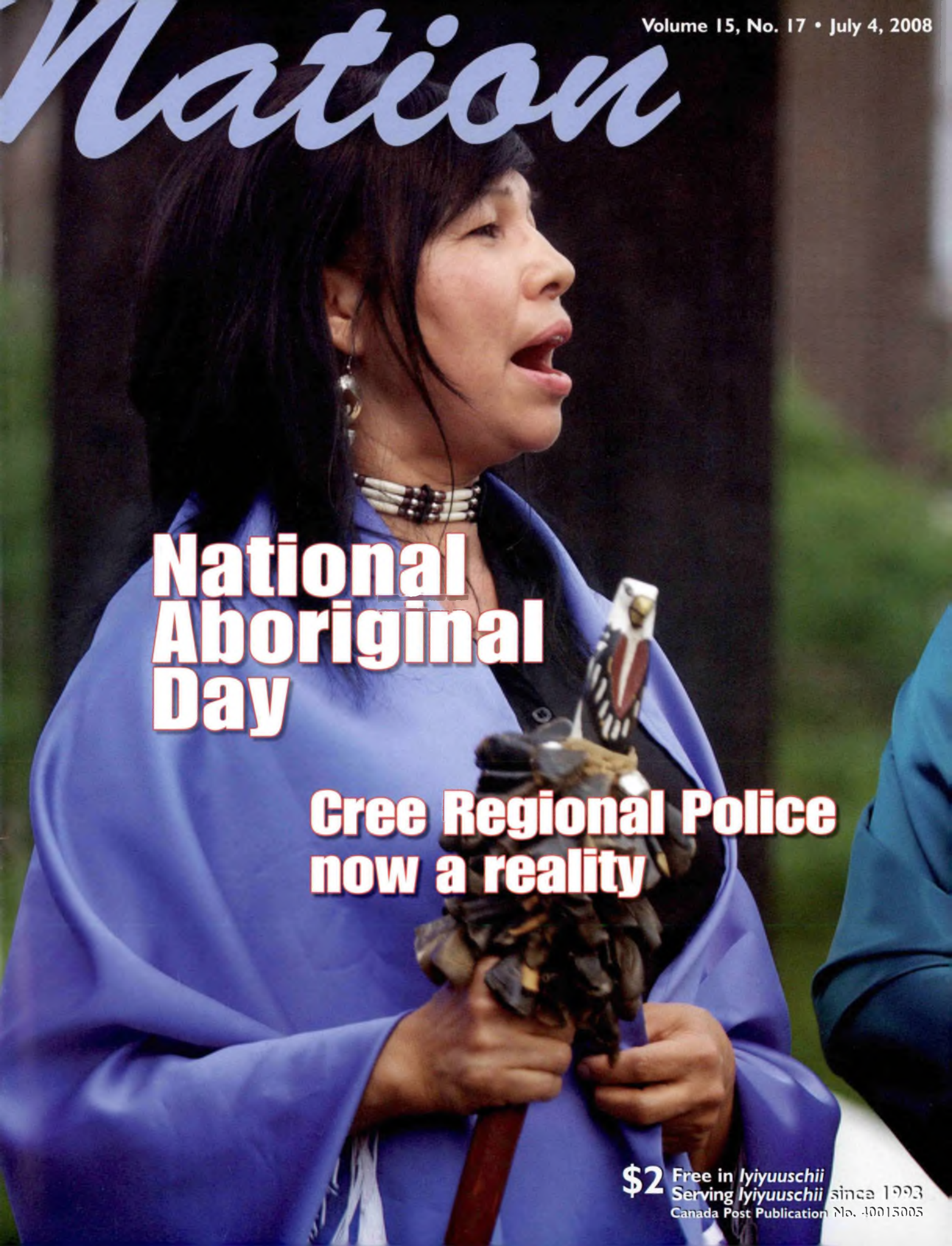

# National Aboriginal Day

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# Rabbit Hole

*By Will Nicholls*

Shortly after midnight on June 15, a loud explosion woke up many Nemaska residents. The blast came from a house at 4 Rabbit Trail. As you can see by the photos the damage was extensive. The cause turned out to be a propane explosion.

Five teenagers, between the ages of 13 to 18, were injured. All were flown out to Montreal.

Some of them were allegedly sniffing the propane. Another youth arrived home to a darkened house. Since he couldn't see, he lit his lighter. The flame ignited the propane and caused the explosion.

According to a Nemaska Band Council press release, the Sûreté du Québec, who investigated the incident, said it was an accident and not criminal. The Nemaska Police and the Matagami SQ detachment would only confirm the Nemaska Band Council press release. They refused to discuss the incident at all.

The Nemaska Band Council press release also stated, "We cannot stress enough the importance of reporting any suspicious or unusual activity in your neighbourhood."

I would like to report the suspicious behaviour on the part of the two police forces. If they are unwilling to answer questions regarding an accident one has to wonder what else they may be trying to hide from the public's eyes.

The focus here should rightly be on the sniffing by the youth. In this context the police and the health officials should have been lining up to do drug-abuse preventive measures to ensure this type of incident doesn't happen again.

It should focus not only on the dangers of an explosion but that the real dangers of sniffing are well presented and publicized.

Sniffing propane can lead to many complications. The way it tends to work is by displacing air in the lungs. In other words, inhalants deprive the body of oxygen, a condition known as hypoxia. Hypoxia can damage cells throughout the body, but the cells of the brain are especially sensitive to it.

The symptoms of brain hypoxia vary according to which areas of the brain are affected: the hippocampus, for example, helps control memory, so someone who repeatedly uses inhalants may lose the ability to learn new things or may have a hard time carrying on simple conversations.

Long-term inhalant abuse can also break down myelin, a fatty tissue that surrounds and protects some nerve fibres. Myelin helps nerve fibres carry their messages quickly and efficiently, and when damaged can lead to muscle spasms and tremors or even permanent difficulty with basic actions like walking, bending and talking.

Animal and human research show that most inhalants are extremely toxic. Chronic exposure can lead to widespread and long-lasting damage to the brain and other parts of the nervous system. Nerve damage can be similar to that seen in individuals with neurological diseases such as multiple sclerosis. Chronic exposure can produce significant damage to the heart, lungs, liver and kidneys. Prolonged abuse can negatively affect a person's cognition, movement, vision and hearing.

And that's just to start with as sniffing highly concentrated amounts can directly induce heart failure and death within minutes of a session of repeated inhalations. This syndrome, known as "sudden sniffing death," can result from a single session of inhalant use by an otherwise healthy young person. Sudden sniffing death is particularly associated with the abuse of butane, propane and chemicals in aerosols.

And that's just one way you can die from it as high concentrations can kill you quite nastily. Asphyxiation is where vapours displace oxygen in the lungs and you die. You can suffocate when oxygen is blocked from entering the lungs when inhaling fumes from a plastic bag placed over the head and you die. You can go into convulsions or seizures caused by abnormal electrical discharges in the brain and you can die. You can go into a coma where the brain shuts down all but the most vital functions. The chances of waking up are dismal at best. You may also die or simply be a vegetable for the rest of your life.

You can choke to death from inhaling vomit prompted by inhalant use. You may sustain a fatal or near-fatal injury from accidents, such as motor vehicle crashes, that occur while intoxicated.

In other words, sniffing is just plain stupid.

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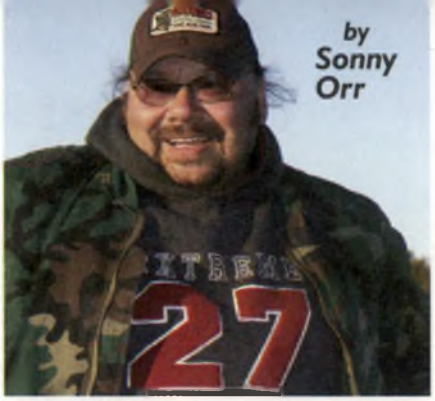
photo courtesy of: **Terres en Vues / Marc-Hugo Smith**




# Remote control

On one of my many forays to the south, I was fortunate enough to be entertained in Mohawk country – something I encourage others to think about. I wasn't sure what to expect when I arrived within a kilometre of the Akwesesne reserve, St. Regis, Cornwall Island, Turtle Island. It's a mish-mash of American-Canadian-Quebec-Ontario rules and regulations. Let's see now, can I make a right on a red light?

Given the somewhat exotic atmosphere of another country just across the river from where I rested my tired head during my stay, I did enjoy what our southern brethren have to offer. There was a casino a few minutes away on the New York side, which is apparently a lot easier to get to than getting back from, according to one witless witness.

Band card or no band card, Jay Treaty or what not, the Canadian border guards were a lot harsher in their inspection. Keep up the good work, custom dudes, now I know I'm safe from same-day returning Canadian tourists, who may plot to send Tim Hortons south, where I hear tell that doughnuts are right up there with bacon when it comes to Canadian exports.

Enough of the border, I'm just glad that it's the world's longest border, long enough to keep those pesky Yanks at bay. Just say tax, tax and more tax, that should keep them away.

Speaking of entertainment, we, a general assembly of smart people talking money, took part in the usual choice of the ice-breaking and general getting to know the area: it was either slugging it out on a golf club under rainy skies or getting a plush boat ride on the St. Lawrence Seaway.

I chose the latter, just to see whether or not there were high-speed smuggling boats, or at least the Canadian version of Miami Vice, scooting around the channels with cases of contraband cigarettes. But, no, it was just us tooling around for a while at two knots, although the history part of the tour was interesting enough to merit another trip.

Then we had a cultural show, which, interesting to note, is having a resurgence after years of steel-working and living in one of the most developed areas of North America wasn't enough to erode away the Mohawks resilience, border patrols and all, they survived.

Later on, an event showcasing an Aboriginal hypnotist became what would be something I thankfully do not remember much of. The first part of the show was hilarious, people doing pretty good imitations of their favourite recording star, a lot of sleeping (instantly I must add) and even some mass hypnosis seemed to be going on as several people began nodding in and out of the show. Unbeknownst to their conscious thoughts, they were succumbing to the hypnotic suggestions.

It seemed to work, as I felt compelled to become a guinea pig. Soon after being on stage, I returned to my seat, feeling the embarrassing stares from the audience. Apparently a cue was left in me and the other victims' subconscious, because for some reason, we were all gyrating and slapping our behinds for no apparent reason.

I just hope that the show doesn't make it to YouTube.

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# The new commish

## Regional police force will change law enforcement in the north

*By Amy German*

Law enforcement in Eeyou Istchee is changing rapidly as Cree local community police forces are being merged into one regional police force to be known as the Eeyou-Eenou Police Force with Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff to serve as its first police commissioner.

Though the bylaw for the new police organization was created last fall, when Bill 54 was passed on June 12, it led to the creation of the Eeyou-Eenou Police Force and its implementation was part of the Paix des Braves agreement. The bylaw stated that the CRA vice-chairman is also to serve as the police commissioner.

According to Iserhoff, there will be few immediate changes as the policing situation and its needs, along with the needs of social services such as youth protection, have to be assessed first.

Under the new commission, the police forces in Eeyou Istchee will be under one group though they will still maintain the way they have been operating up to now and maintain the same joint tasks with the Sûreté du Québec around the territory. The only major difference for the time being is that Cree police forces will no longer be divided by community.

No decisions on making new equipment purchases have been made at this time and they will not be until the equipment currently in use is assessed.

Though his new position as police commissioner will not be a fulltime position, as he will also remain as Deputy Chief, Iserhoff insists that if there are improvements to be made then he will ensure that they happen. For the time being the commission is looking to hire a series of regional officers, directors and captains.

Despite the fact that no meetings have taken place yet under the new police commission, Iserhoff already has one major priority in mind. "Considering everything that is going on in the Cree Nation, crime prevention is the first thing I would like to work on using the police services and all of the officers," he said.

Cree Graduates from Nicolette Police Academy with the Grand Chief

He put a particular emphasis on this in regards to youth crime and the large number of young people who are presently under the youth protection act. Iserhoff would like to start seeing young people in the communities making "better choices" and is looking to address youth crime through the school system to "encourage them to do the right things."

Iserhoff, who was once an auxiliary police officer in Mistissini, said that under the new commission "everything is going to be adapted to the Cree way of doing things and for that we will probably get a lot of guidance from our Elders."

He also said that there are issues that are now being addressed within the new agreement that will help police concerns in the community to help the services that they provide.

"We are there to implement what has been agreed to and suggest to the Grand Council and to the people how we are going to do things because when it comes to actually making choices, it starts with the individual," said Iserhoff.

The announcement of Iserhoff's appointment as police commissioner came as good news to police directors Bradley Mianscum of Mistissini and Samuel House of Chisasibi who both felt confident with the decision.

"I am very happy for Mr. Iserhoff that he is the first commissioner and when he is an old man he will have the bragging rights," said Mianscum with a laugh.

House also felt that the nomination of Iserhoff was ideal because in the past he has been so supportive of police services. "Ashley understands the police file and we have good communication with him," said House.

Another development Crees will see comes with the May 23 announcement that the Ministry of Justice has given $336,669 for the creation of the Cree Crime Victims Assistance Centre (CAVAC).

The CAVAC will be the 17th in the province and will provide frontline post-trauma services, information and assistance to crime victims and their families and to those who have witnessed crimes.

The funding for this program will be separate from other budgets according to Iserhoff who said, that while promoting the federal agreement last September, a great deal of community members complained that there was no resources for victims of crimes.

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# Drawing a new map

## The Grand Council is against changing the current electoral map

*By Will Nicholls*

The political landscape of Eeyou Istchee may be in for another change. The Commission de la représentation électorale du Québec is looking at changing the Ungava electoral map.

The Grand Council of the Crees made a presentation to the commission in Montreal on June 12, as to how the revision of electoral boundaries will affect the Cree communities.

Grand Chief Matthew Mukash stated, "On March 12, this commission tabled in the National Assembly a report that contained various recommendations, including a drastic cutback of the district of Ungava in favour of the slower-growing districts of Abitibi-Ouest and Abitibi-Est.

"This proposal would have serious impacts on the people of Waswanipi and Ouje-Bougoumou as they would be separated from the other seven Cree communities and they would be represented from thereon by a different MNA.

"This proposal would also impact on and affect the functioning and integration of various of our regional institutions, some of which have been built over the past 30 years.

"And most importantly, the breakaway of two of our communities would strike at the heart of our Cree Nation, the integrity of which has been solidified in recent times and has drawn on a history that spans over thousands of years."

Mukash also said there are non-Cree who were opposed to any changes to the electoral map of Ungava. "In this regard, you already heard some presentations at the hearings in Chibougamau, most notably those of Mr. Luc Ferland – currently the Member of the National Assembly for Ungava – and of Mr. Michel Letourneau – MNA for Ungava before Mr. Ferland.

"All those who made presentations in Chibougamau and in Val-d'Or were strongly opposed to any changes to the boundaries of the electoral district of Ungava. Their presentations focused essentially on describing the people and electors of Ungava as forming a 'natural community'.

"You were told that, despite their inherent differences, the three communities – the Crees, the Inuit and the other Québécois – co-existed peacefully; that certain features were unique to the land and people of the region known as Ungava, and that the institutions and communities had become integrated to the point where a sense of 'natural community' had emerged over the past 30 years. This, you were told, could well justify safeguarding the integrity of the current electoral district of Ungava, so insuring that a single MNA represent the interests of the entire region," said Mukash.

"We believe that Quebec democracy would be much better served with a new electoral map. Indeed, when this map is considered as a whole, it is fairer and better corresponds to what Québec has become," said Marcel Blanchet, president of the Commission de la representation electorale.

Mukash also talked about the protection of Cree rights under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) through traditional activities, an environmental and social protection regime, and ability to participate and be involved in development of Eeyou Istchee including a forestry regime.

He also pointed out this may affect the way the Cree School Board and the Cree Board of Health and Social Services are run.

A regional police force has been created with jurisdiction in all nine communities.

Mukash said the recent Paix des braves and federal agreements will require a "high level of regional administrative coordination and integration, as well as political liaison with both the governments of Canada and Quebec."

As a result, "The Crees living in the nine James Bay Cree communities share a common history and culture – they truly form a 'natural community'. Being all beneficiaries of the (JBNQA), they have built over the past 30 years a number of institutions, most of which are well-integrated on a regional scale.

**"THIS PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE SERIOUS IMPACTS ON THE PEOPLE OF WASWANIPI AND OUJE-BOUGOUMOU AS THEY WOULD BE SEPARATED FROM THE OTHER SEVEN CREE COMMUNITIES."**

"The momentum gathered recently with the signing of landmark implementation agreements with the governments of Canada and Quebec requires that the Crees work ever closer together, that they share a common vision and that they speak with a common voice on some of the issues that are common to all of them.

"In this context, the commission's proposal of isolating Waswanipi and Ouje-Bougoumou from the other James Bay Cree communities is unacceptable.

"With all due respect, the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) is strongly opposed to it, and in this regard, for lack of appropriate alternatives, it supports the status quo."

Blanchet said, "With the current map, some electors have a vote that has more than twice the weight of the vote of other electors, which justified major corrective measures. It is a question of fairness and we used the leeway provided under the act to ensure this fairness."

The final report and recommendations were still being prepared as *the Nation* went to press.

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Late registrations will be accepted with a surcharge of $25 per golfer.

## New Youth Grand Chief

On June 17, Stacy Bear was elected Youth Grand Chief. The 28-year-old from Waskaganish won with over 35 percent of the votes.

Candidate Charly Washipabano came in second with 30 percent while Jeremy Diamond garnered 22 percent of the votes.

Bear is the first woman to be Youth Grand Chief in the history of Cree elections. Over the past years, Bear has given a lot to her own community, serving within the Waskaganish Band Council and being the Waskaganish Youth Chief for three years.

"I congratulate Stacy on her election to lead the Cree Nation Youth Council," Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff told *the Nation*. "I've known her since 1998, and from what I see she has a big heart and puts her energy to make a valuable contribution to her community and the Cree Nation."

Now with her new role, Bear is hoping to have a greater influence on the Cree youth. As a woman, she is looking forward to working with issues such as self-esteem, something she says greatly affects young Cree women. "I think more confident people are less likely to fall in the trap of alcohol and drug abuse," said Bear.

For the next four years Bear will work with the Youth Council in all the communities to plan and organize activities for young people. "I have the resources to help others help themselves, rather than doing things for them," Bear explained.

The elections went smoothly according to Anthony Neeposh, Assistant Electoral Officer for the Cree Regional Authority. "It's about time that women take over politics and I wish Stacy good luck!"

## Moosonee moms receive literacy reward

Two Moosonee moms, Connie Hergott and Theresa Crown, were honoured on May 26 for their contributions to literary development in their community.

The James Bay Chapter of the Ontario Association of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists (OSLA) presented the award to Hergott and Crown for their work with The Dolly Parton Imagination Library by helping children with their language and literacy progression. As well as the award, a donation was given to support the foundation in Moosonee.

Thanks to them, over 100 children under the age of five who have signed up in Moosonee can now receive one book per month until their fifth birthday. The books are carefully selected by professionals to assist children in preparing their reading skills before kindergarten. Both Hergott and Crown, who worked very hard on achieving this goal, were thrilled to receive recognition for their efforts.

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is a foundation that supports children's language development all over Canada since 2006. It was launched by Invest in Kids along with The Dollywood Foundation in Canada.

Donations are welcomed by the Moosonee Imagination Library. Cheques or money orders marked "Moosonee" can be sent to: Krista Lamb, Manager, Media Relations and Publicity, Invest in Kids, 425 Adelaide St. W, 6th floor, Toronto, ON, M5V 3C1.

For more information on how to start an Imagination Library program in your community, call 1-877-583-KIDS #293 or visit www.investinkids.ca or www.imaginationlibrary.com.

## Propane explosion in Nemaska

On Sunday, June 15, at 12:30 in the morning, five teenagers, between the ages of 13 and 18, were injured following an incident involving a propane explosion in Nemaska.

Some of them were sniffing propane which led to the devastating explosion after it was ignited by the flame of a lighter. The Sûreté du Québec from Matagami who investigated the scene determined that the incident was accidental and not criminal. Both Nemaska Chief of Police Kelly Marchand and Matagami SQ Sergeant Cotton refused to comment on the investigation.

All five victims were sent to the Montreal Children's Hospital. One is still being treated in hospital while the others have been released and are currently staying in a nearby hotel. All are expected to stay in Montreal for the next two weeks for follow-up treatment.

A public notice released by the Council of the Cree Nation of Nemaska emphasized how the public must react. "We cannot stress enough the importance of reporting any suspicious or unusual activity in your neighbourhood. Let's work together to make our community a safer place for our people," it stated.

# WHERE'S THE MONEY?

## GOVERNMENT AGENCY CUTS ITS FUNDING TO ABORIGINAL FILM FESTIVAL WITHOUT NOTICE

*By Amy German Photos courtesy First Peoples' Festival*

Just four weeks before the First Peoples' Festival kicked off on June 12, the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec, the federal ministry that annually grants the event $50,000, told the festival it was not going to get the money nor would it get any in the future.

"The minister (Jean-Pierre Blackburn) is reconsidering the whole thing and we have some indication that he will find a way to compensate us because it happened on such short notice," said festival organizer André Dudemaine. Yet, at the same time, Dudemaine is certain that if the festival receives any compensation it will not be the full amount and might only be enough to keep the festival out of the red.

The grant, which provides the budget to promote the event internationally and bring in foreign press members to cover the event, means that the festival will have to seek funding elsewhere or face cutting back on future festivals. Should no further funding be available, the festival's website would see significant cutbacks as well as its international presence.

Though this international Indigenous film and arts festival is the largest of its kind in Canada, the ministry's explanation for the cutbacks was to be able to give more to the multi-million dollar mega-festivals such as Just for Laughs and the Montreal International Jazz Festival. At the same time, Dudemaine is baffled by the decision as $50,000 is only a drop in the bucket for the major festivals. The First Peoples' Festival's total budget is approximately $650,000.

Speculating as to whether the decision may have been politically motivated, Dudemaine said, "I have no insight into the matter nor into the mind of the minister. I know that it has been said that he is very impulsive, and makes decisions without thinking twice and without consultation."

At the same time, the decision came shortly after it was announced that Richard Desjardins' controversial documentary, Le Peuple Invisible (The Invisible Nation), about the current struggles and literal genocide of the Algonquin people at the hands of Quebec, was to be shown at the United Nations. The film was screened at the festival on National Aboriginal Day June 21.

Whatever the reason for the ministry's decision, Dudemaine sees the situation as contradictory especially coming at the same time as Prime Minister Stephen Harper's apology for the residential school system.

# First Peoples' Festival reviews

**Shooting Geronimo**
*Kent Monkman (Canada, 11 min)*
This surrealist silent short explores stereotypical Cowboy-and-Indian movies with a contemporary twist. With humorously cycled bits, this 11-minute short is all about what happens when two strapping young braves get together with General Custer and a Native drag queen for some movie-making.

**A Massacre Foretold**
*Nick Higgins (UK, 58 min)*
Scotland's Nick Higgins, an expert in Mexican culture and politics, shows a never-seen-before look at the 45 Indigenous residents of the town of Acetal before they were slaughtered during a prayer meeting by paramilitaries. This intimate and disturbing look at the Chiapas rebellion goes behind the headlines to tell the story of a doomed people caught in the middle of a political uprising and the dark days leading up to their untimely fate. This is not for the weak of heart.

**Aboriginality**
Dominique Keller
*(Canada, 5 min)*
Spectacularly fusing animation with live-action and featuring world-champion hoop dancer and hip-hop artist Dallas Arcand, this short follows an Aboriginal youth as he connects with First Nations culture of the past and the present. A brilliant example of how the past connects with the world of today, this family-oriented film explores cultural pride in both contexts.

**Run**
*Mark Albiston (New Zealand, 15 min)*
This picturesque short features brilliant performances as it tells the tale of three family members overcoming the death of their mother and finding themselves. An overbearing father com-

pensates for duel parent duty by keeping his kids on a rigid running schedule and forcing his daughter to practice classical music instead of her own composition. When the children stand up to him together, the spell of grief is broken.

**Kanien'kehá:ka: Living The Language, Parts 1 & 2**
*Paul M. Rickard & Tracey Deer (Canada, 2 x 48 min)*
This in-depth two-part documentary tells the story of the Akwesasnse Freedom School, how it came to be and how it has given strength and solidarity to the Mohawk language and a community trying to keep it alive. Chronicling the school's history from 1979 to the present, this made-for-TV documentary explores the educational experience as taught through adapted Mohawk programs. Showing how it is possible to be an academic success despite the school's traditional teaching methods, this doc brings the Mohawk language alive and offers a fascinating example for other communities looking to do the same.

**Our Land, Our Life**
*George Gage & Beth Gage (USA, 74 min)*
This breathtakingly beautiful documentary chronicles the struggles of Carrie and Mary Dann, two feisty Western Shoshone sisters who fight the Bureau of Land Management all the way up to the Supreme Court. When the Nevada-based elderly siblings are informed by the U.S. government that they are trespassing on their own traditional lands by allowing their livestock to graze on the open range without a permit, a tale of government-assisted corporate greed unfolds. This touching, engaging and inspirational story of family, tradition and struggles for Native land rights so deserved the festival's Rigoberta Menchu Prize. A must see!

**Club Native**
*Tracey Deer (Canada, 75 min)*
The idea of determining a person's racial identity based on bloodline reeks of 19th century eugenics and its most vigilant exponents: the Nazis. However, the measuring of blood is not new to Aboriginal people. It's a system that's been used for nearly two centuries to decide Native status by the Europeans. Mohawk director Tracey Deer explores the use of blood quantum to ascertain membership in her hometown of Kahnawake, just outside of Montreal, by focusing on four women who currently live on the reserve. Their situations are under scrutiny as two of them are in relationships with white men and two have non-Mohawk fathers. This insightful and compelling documentary is given a personal twist since Deer's younger sister is one of the subjects.
(Martin Siberok)

# First Peoples' Festival Winners 2008

**DR. BERNARD CHAGNAN ASSINIWI MEDAL**
* Yves Sioui Durand

**CREATION TEUEIKAN PRIZE:**
* First prize: **Miss Chief Eagle Testickle Trilogy**, Kent Monkman, Gisèle Gordon, Canada
* Second prize: **Los Chulpas,** Alex Moya Ibacache, Chile
* Finalist: **Ecstatic Vessels**, Diane Kitchen, USA
* Finalist: **The Colony**, Jeff Barnaby, Quebec-Canada

**RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ GRAND PRIZE:**
* First prize: **Our Land Our Life**, George Gage, Beth Gage, USA
* Second prize: **13 pueblos en defensa del agua, el aire y la tierra**, Francesco Taboada Tabone, Mexico
* Finalist: **Muffins for Granny**, Nadia McLaren, Canada
* Finalist: **Club Native**, Tracey Deer, Quebec-Canada

**BEST DOCUMENTARY PRIZE - SÉQUENCES**
* Prize: **A Sister's Love**, Ivan Sen, Australia
* Finalist with special mention: **Whispering of the Trees**, Tom Lemke, Germany
* Finalist: **Sami Daughter Yoik** Liselotte Wajstedt, Sweden
* Finalist: **Hope**, Thomas Buchan, Stuart Reaugh, Canada

**BEST SHORT FILM:**
* Prize: **Hamac Caziim**, Jeronimo Barriga, Mexico
* Finalist with special mention: **Hawaikii**, Mike Jonathan, New Zealand
* Finalist: **Taua**, Tearepa Kahi, New Zealand
* Finalist: **Run**, Mark Albiston, New Zealand

**BEST PHOTO DIRECTION:**
* Prize: **Hope**, Thomas Buchan, Stuart Reaugh, Canada
* Finalist with special mention: **El Hospital**, Leiqui Uriana, Xavier Larroque, Yanilu Ojeda, Venezuela
* Finalist: **Taua**, Tearepa Kahi, New Zealand
* Finalist: **Hawaikii**, Mike Jonathan, New Zealand

**KODAK – GLOBAL VISION PRIZE**
**BEST CANADIAN FILM**
* Prize: **Club Native**, Tracey Deer, Quebec-Canada
* Finalist with special mention: **Muffins for Granny**, Nadia McLaren, Canada
* Finalist: **Little Caughnawaga**, Reaghan Tarbell, Canada

**MAINFILM YOUTH PRIZE**
* Prize: **Unishinutsh La voie des autres,** Sonia Robertson, Alain Connolly, Mendy Bossom, Quebec-Canada
* Finalist: **Truly Traditional,** Cynthia Taylor, Canada

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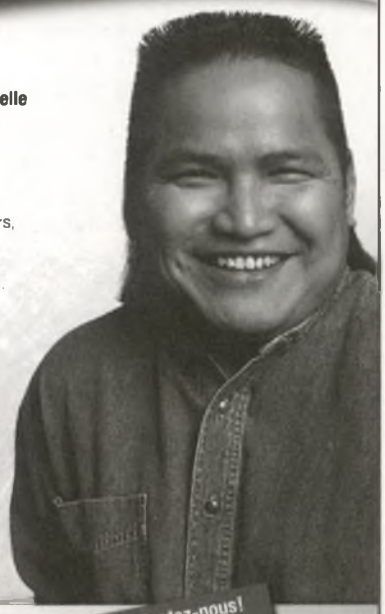

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# National Aboriginal Day

By Ndiaman

photos courtesy of Terres en Vues / Marc-Hugo Smith

The longest day of the year. The first day of summer. The 21st of June. National Aboriginal Day.

I have a problem with National Aboriginal Day. I can never remember when it is. Unlike Christmas (Jesus' birthday) or Hallowe'en (Satan's day), I would like to remember. Then I could go to my local and bum drinks all night long.

In 1982 the National Indian Brotherhood or NIB called for the creation of a National Aboriginal Solidarity Day. A lucky 13 years later the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples recommends the designation of a National First Peoples Day along with hundreds of other recommendations sitting on some dusty shelf in a top-secret government warehouse.

Within weeks, though, Elijah Harper, Chairman of The Sacred Assembly, a national conference of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, pulls out his Eagle feather and demands a national holiday to celebrate Indian… Oops… Aboriginal contributions to Canadian society. The following year, 1996, Governor General Romeo Leblanc declares June 21 as National Aboriginal Day. Woohoo! Celebrations and parties take place coast to coast. I miss them completely.

There you have it. It took 14 years of struggle and toil for Indians to get their day. What is this?! African Canadians, that would be Canadians from Africa, get a whole month and Whitey gets a whole year! Wait a minute… five centuries and counting! Why don't they just go ahead and make it National Aboriginal Minute? I'm burning my status card and beaver-skin bra. Oops, wrong gender but you get the idea.

And let's not forget the United Nations Decade of Indigenous Peoples. The first decade came and went with nothing happening so the U.N. had to extend it for another decade.

Don't get me started on The Apology or the apology after the Apology. Everyone wanted to get into the act. White guilt really came out of the closet that day.

We can all be thankful that a new era is dawning and perhaps next year I'll remember I have a day all of my own or someone will remind me.

For those of you who did remember, Happy Aboriginal Day!

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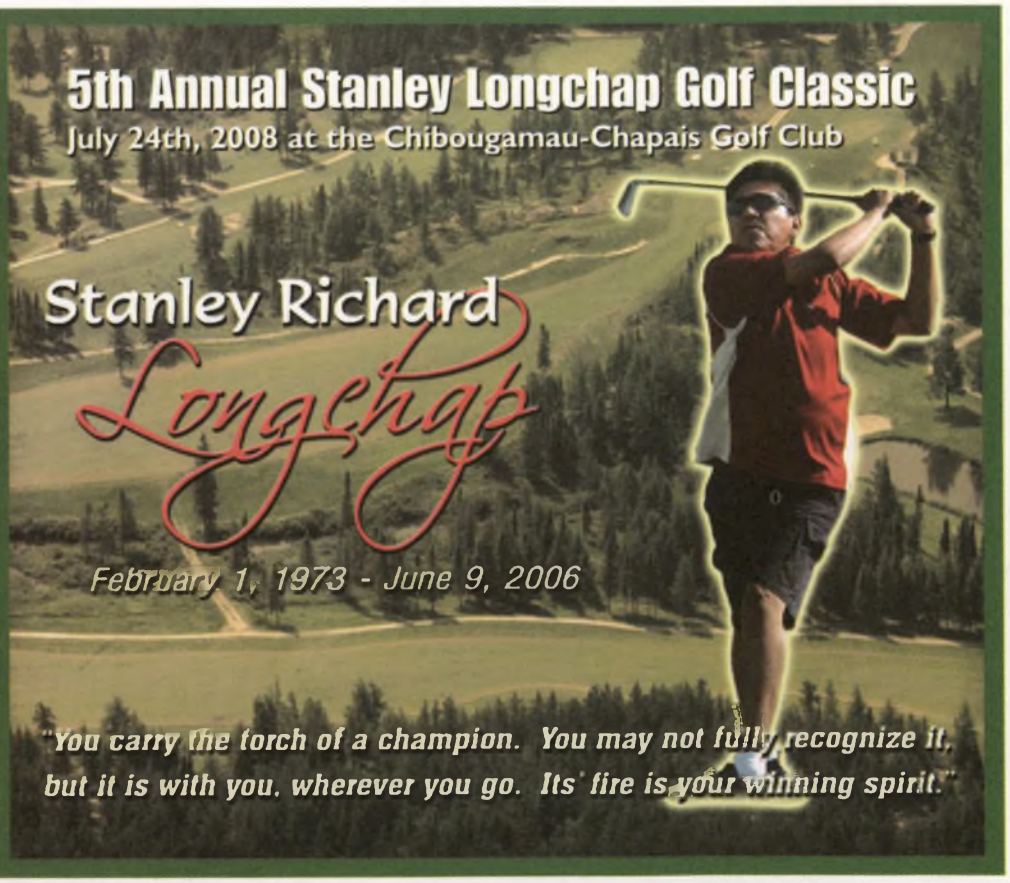
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# THE SHRINKING BEDS

## Will the federal government help save the loss of eelgrass?

*By Amy German*

On March 4, the Crees from Chisasibi spoke in the House of Commons with the help of Yvon Lévesque, Bloc Québécois MP for Abitibi-James Bay-Nunavik-Eeyou, and members of the scientific community about the decline of the eelgrass beds in both James Bay and Hudson Bay. They requested that a study be commissioned by the federal government.

Chisasibi Chief Roderick Pachano was in parliament that day as his community is being directly impacted by the decline of these beds that water fowl feed off and fish spawn in. As the eelgrass beds decline, so does the traditional food source for his community.

According to Pachano, prior to Hydro-Québec's development of the North, the eelgrass beds were abundant. "There were aerial studies done by the Canadian Wildlife Service. And, it was estimated that they saw 250 square miles of eelgrass beds that stretched to the north end of James Bay," said Pachano.

After the second phase of LG-2A was put into operation the community started to notice for the first time that there was not as much eelgrass. In more recent years the damage would have stemmed from the development of EM-1.

Pachano believes that the major changes in the ecosystem came about with the increased water flow through the La Grande River from the diversion of the Caniapiscau River, the Eastmain River and now the Rupert River. Previously the water level had been very low in the winter, very high in the spring and stable throughout the summer months. But with the diversions, the water level has become increasingly consistent throughout the year.

Pachano referred to various reports produced by Hydro-Québec that point to a number of factors which could have impacted the eelgrass including wave action, ice and weather change. But, said Pachano, "we have determined through several studies that these factors are not likely the cause."

What is impacting the eelgrass is a change in the salinity of the water and turbidity caused by the increased water flow and sliding earth that has come from the development in the area.

With the loss of eelgrass, there have been far fewer geese around that would normally feed on this plant. Even the fish, which would normally spawn beneath the plant and use it for cover, are not doing so anymore. The geese that remain in the region have now started to develop problems as their diets have changed.

The Crees from Chisasibi went to Ottawa, where they addressed the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans (FOPO) and discussed the impact on the loss of eelgrass beds on migratory birds and fish. They also requested a study be conducted to find the source of the problem. There has been very little monitoring on behalf of independent bodies in James Bay as Hydro contractors have been doing the bulk of it.

As Pachano states, "What is the purpose of monitoring someone only to watch him die? What's the point?"

On June 13, Pachano was told the FOPO has sent its recommendation to the government that "it must establish within its jurisdiction, a program of research and large-scale monitoring of the ecosystems of James Bay and Hudson Bay. It is essential to various Aboriginal communities involved to participate in the research and monitoring so as to incorporate traditional knowledge."

AS THE EELGRASS BEDS DECLINE, SO DOES THE TRADITIONAL FOOD SOURCE FOR THE COMMUNITY.

The verdict on whether or not the government will actually set up a study will not be announced until August.

In the meantime, the community of Chisasibi has been working with Dr. Frederick Short, an eelgrass specialist from the University of New Hampshire, to find a means to re-grow the eelgrass beds. Whereas the region had previously been perfect for eelgrass to flourish, now some environmental factor is preventing its production.

Said Pachano, "They want to grow. We see them coming up in shoots, just a few inches in length but that is about it. Eelgrass usually grows a lot longer than that." As a result, migratory birds simply cannot have access to them.

According to the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, the Crees are guaranteed the same level of harvesting for the same effort. However, the Crees in Chisasibi are not yielding the same harvest as a result of this possible environmental disaster. The matter needs further investigation to find the source and to see where the blame can be placed.

## Congratulations to Stacy Bear the new Youth Grand Chief!

Waskaganish is extremely proud to have one of its people become the first female Youth Grand Chief of the Cree Nation Youth Council (Eeyou Istchee).

There is a bright future ahead for the Youth of Eeyou Istchee as we continue to build a strong and vibrant Cree Nation. We believe that Stacy will be a great and influential Youth Chief and will leave her mark in Cree history.

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"ONE HAS TO APPRECIATE THAT THE DEMAND ON THE FUNDING FAR EXCEEDS THE QUANTITY THAT IS AVAILABLE."

# Money shuffle

## INAC responses to NDP accusations that its reallocation of funding is too liberal

*By Amy German*

In the last edition of *the Nation* (Vol. 15, No. 16), Charlie Angus, NDP MP for Timmins-James Bay, accused Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) of misspending and shady reallocations. While Marc Brooks, INAC's Director General of Community Development, will confirm the reallocations, he could not say where the money went.

"Once it's out of my envelope, I don't see it anymore," said Brooks explaining that when money is taken out of his dossier to address other "priority pressures," it becomes the responsibility of INAC's financial organization.

When it comes to effectively managing the ministry's budget, INAC follows a "priority framework" to fund various operations and projects. In its 2008-2009 budget, supplementary funding was set aside for its health-and-safety program in relation to water and sewers as part of the capital infrastructure fund.

Brooks explained that this specific fund is "targeted," meaning that this funding will not be used for anything else though it is the only aspect of the capital budget that is.

As for the capital budget for school construction and repairs and social housing, funding to the tune of approximately $79 million has been reallocated from this budget annually between 1999 and 2007 to address other priorities that INAC justifies.

The priorities in question INAC listed as education, social development, economic development, federal responsibilities in the North and internal services.

Brooks also referred to a number of "acts of God" that force INAC to pull funding out of the school capital fund for emergencies such as natural disaster relief. "This can potentially delay a project from going forward," said Brooks.

At the same time he also spoke of how the rising cost of construction and the lack of resources, partially due to an exploration boom in Alberta, were also delaying construction and repairs in the school sector as things like fuel and materials are becoming increasingly costly and manpower is scarce.

Pleading his case, Brooks said, "One has to appreciate that the demand on the funding far exceeds the quantity that is available."

According to a NDP document, titled The Order Paper Answer on INAC funding, which was submitted to the House of Commons in April, changes have been made in the vocabulary used to indicate as to whether school projects are actually underway or will receive funding.

Unlike its predecessors, this document, which basically details the status of all school construction or repair requests across Canada for the fiscal year, no longer lists projects as either in "tendering phase" or "construction phase". This makes it significantly harder to track what exactly is happening with the projects and funding to anyone else other than those in charge.

In response to questioning about the change in jargon, Brooks said, "It's nothing Machiavellian if that is what you are trying to imply. It's just my team trying to put things to make it a little more easier on ourselves if I can say it that way."

According to both the documents and Brooks, 11 school projects, either for reparations or new construction, are listed under the "projects approved" category and are slated for the 2008-2009 fiscal year although at the same time these projects are also listed as "contingent on availability of funding."

Despite the promise of funding for these projects, Brooks is not guaranteeing that they will all happen. "If you were able to guarantee that we were not going to be able to have any forest fires, any floods, any natural disasters, then I probably could provide that guarantee," he said.

Attawapiskat is unfortunately not on the list of 11 schools slated for new construction. Brooks was unavailable to respond earlier in regards to the misspending allegations because he was in Attawapiskat meeting with Chief Theresa Hall and looking at possible funding alternatives to build a new school that INAC currently will not fund.

Though he would not comment beyond saying that "certain avenues are being explored" for the Attawapiskat school, which consists of dilapidated trailers, Brooks did comment on how impressed he was with the reserve's children.

"Quite often if children are not very happy they will not look at you in the face. But they all looked at me in the face – no one looked away," said Brooks

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# Chikâwîniu Aschî COMPOSTING

BY MANON LEGAULT

In Quebec, 1/3 to 1/2 of the garbage we throw out each week could be composted. Gardens, lawns, trees and shrubs all benefit greatly from compost.

Composting reduces the environmental impact of having to spend fuel and energy driving the garbage to a landfill and incinerating it. The organic waste, which is usually in plastic bags, stagnates and produces methane and toxic run-off, which contaminates the soil and ground water.

Compost improves the structure of the soil and makes it more fertile, which gives us better fruits and vegetables and more beautiful flowers. It reduces the need for fertilizers, which helps us save money. It also locks moisture into the soil, so that it needs less water, if and when less is available.

Composts can seem like a lot of work, but it really depends on how you do it. There are many ways to compost, and once you're set up, it's really not hard at all, and can be done anywhere, in any climate.

The first thing to consider is how much you and your family are going to compost. Things like fruits, vegetables, egg shells, coffee grounds, garden refuse, grass clippings, hair, hay and straw, leaves, nut shells, pine needles, sawdust and woodchips can all be put into the compost.

Things like diseased or insect-infested plants, human waste, meat or dairy products, pet waste, dust or anything that's been sprayed with pesticides, herbicides, fungicides or other harsh chemicals, cannot.

Once you have an idea of what you might want to compost, the next step is to look at your yard and decide how big your ideal compost should be.

A good place for a compost bin should ideally be lightly shaded. It should have good ventilation without being exposed to high winds. This will prevent it from freezing in the winter, especially if there is some amount of sun to warm it up. It should be easily accessible from the house or garden: nobody wants to have to shovel his or her way to the compost bin in -40°C weather! It should be near a water point like a hose but not directly in water, as this would disturb the compost's balance.

The easiest, cleanest way to compost is in a bin. It looks neat, and animals can't get into it. Piles of compost are not safe from animals and can be subject to municipal laws.

Most hardware stores like Canadian Tire, BMR or garden stores will sell some kind of compost bin. There are some made for balconies and some made for lawns, which are bigger. For most of these, you will need an aerator or pitchfork to stir the compost every one to two weeks.

If you want to build your own compost bin, here's a good website: http://gorilla.mcgill.ca/howtocompost.htm

There are also bins that rotate, called tumblers, which makes life easy if you have back problems. You will need help in order to get the ingredients into the bin to set up the compost, but once it is set up you can use a bucket or wagon to bring the compost to your garden or wherever you need it to be. These can be a bit pricier, but well worth it if you have a weak back.

My personal favorite is called the Blue Planet. It looks exactly as it sounds. "You put your kitchen wastes (coffee and filters, vegetables, fruits, egg shells, grass clippings), anything recyclable, into the bin, and you rotate it from its base to mix it in. It's impossible for raccoons or any other animals to get into it," says Hélène Houde, of La Conception, Quebec, who has deer and other animals in her yard daily.

Regardless of the type of compost you choose, here are the things you need. As mentioned, if you buy a bin in which you need to rotate the compost you will need an aerator or pitchfork for stirring. With any kind of compost you will need a water source nearby, as compost soil needs to moist (but not wet) at all times.

You will need scissors to cut big pieces of food or material. They will decompose faster if they are smaller. You will also need a plastic container with a lid (at least 4 litres in volume), to put your kitchen waste into so you don't have to bring it out every time. It is ideal to take it out every few days to avoid getting fruit flies.

The pile of compost will need a proper ratio of carbon-rich materials (referred to as "browns") and nitrogen-rich materials, (referred to as "greens"). Brown materials include dried leaves, straw and wood chips. Nitrogen materials are fresh or green, like grass clippings and kitchen scraps. The ratio is 2/3 brown matter to 1/3 green matter, and soil, of course. You can add worms, which you can pick around your yard when it rains, provided you are not squeamish, but the micro and macro organisms inside the compost will do the work.

the Blue Planet composter

You can add a bit of compost to your compost to accelerate the process, but this is not necessary. Compost is ready when you cannot make out the pieces of matter from the earth inside the bin, which can take from three weeks to a year depending on the compost. The ideal is to start in the spring and put the compost on your garden in the fall. You can compost in the winter, the process will just be slower.

For detailed information about how to compost, go to www.compostguide.com, and for vermicomposting, www.resourceconservation.mb.ca/cap/vermi.html, if you would rather compost inside your home. But that's not for everyone.

Happy composting!

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Cree Regional Authority
Administration regional Crie
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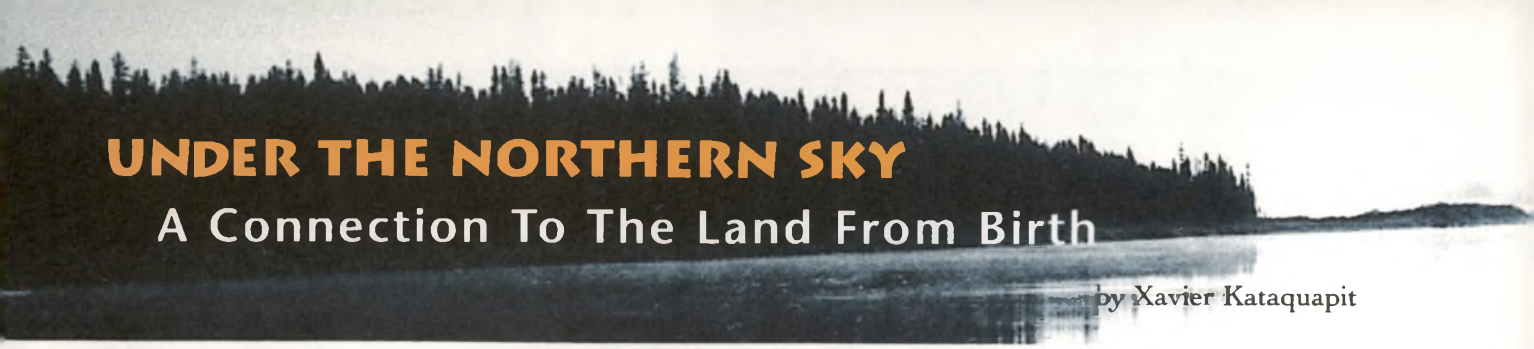
(ᐃᔨᔫ ᐊᐢᑫ)
Grand Council of the Crees
(Eeyou Istchee)
Grand conseil des Cris
(Eeyou Istchee)

# JOB OPPORTUNITIES
## Cree Regional Authority
## Department of Justice and Correction Services

The CRA Department of Justice and Correction Services is announcing the posting of following positions:

Director of Cree Justice and Correctional Services
Coordinator of Justice (Community/Court System)
Coordinator of Justice (Corrections)
Community Justice Officer (Chisasibi)
Community Justice Officer (Eastmain)
Community Justice Officer (Mistissini)
Community Justice Officer (Nemaska)
Community Justice Officer (Ouje-Bougoumou)
Community Justice Officer (Waskaganish)
Community Justice Officer (Waswanipi)
Community Justice Officer (Wemindji)
Community Justice Officer (Whapmagoostui)
Community Reintegration Officer (Chisasibi)
Community Reintegration Officer (Eastmain)
Community Reintegration Officer (Mistissini)
Community Reintegration Officer (Nemaska)
Community Reintegration Officer (Ouje-Bougoumou)
Community Reintegration Officer (Waskaganish)
Community Reintegration Officer (Waswanipi)
Community Reintegration Officer (Wemindji)
Community Reintegration Officer (Whapmagoostui)

Please go to your local band offices for job descriptions and competition numbers. If you do not have access to the community postings of these positions, please contact the Director General Eddie Diamond at the GCCEI/CRA Regional Office located in Nemaska at 819-672-2600 for more information.



# UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

## A Connection To The Land From Birth

by Xavier Kataquapit

I met someone new this week and it was a very special introduction. For the first time, I set my eyes on my new nephew Landyn Charlie Kataquapit. He is the brand-new baby of my brother Joseph Kataquapit and his wife Lynda. Little Landyn was born on June 14 at the Timmins and District Hospital at 7:46 in the evening and he weighed in at 6 pounds and 11 ounces.

Everyone commented that this was a hefty weight for a baby born five weeks earlier than expected. Landyn will be having some fun with his older brother Orion and I am sure Joe and Lynda will have twice as much excitement with two boys in the house.

I was happy to reunite with Joe at the hospital when he introduced me to the newest edition to our family. Our sister Janie Wesley was also on hand to help Lynda through the final stages of her pregnancy. Janie has had plenty of education and knowledge handed down from our grandmother Louise Paulmartin, who acted as midwife at many traditional births in the wilderness. She also learned from our mother Susan who has plenty experience in raising nine of her own children.

Lynda also comes from a family of traditionally minded people in her home community of Webequie First Nation and she received much guidance from her parents and family. So it was no surprise that little Landyn's entry into this world was safe and easy.

As we sat together around the new baby, we talked about when we were born and traditional births that occurred before our people had access to a modern hospital. Even in today's facilities, giving birth is still a major event in a woman's life. Imagine what it must have been like to deal with a birth in the wilderness without access to any medical help.

A pregnancy is never an easy thing. However, knowledge passed on from generation to generation on what to do at any type of birth helped to ensure the survival of our people. Every family back then had someone in their group who had enough experience and learning to help the delivering woman when a new member of the family was born.

There were many practices that helped to ensure the health and wellbeing of the mother and newborn baby. Joe explained one tradition that he followed after the birth of his first son Orion. When a child is born the placenta and afterbirth follows immediately and it is separated from the newborn. In modern medical terms, this afterbirth is considered human remains that should be disposed of in a sanitary way. However, in traditional practices, the placenta plays an important part in ensuring the health and future of a newborn baby.

Joe explained that this afterbirth is considered a symbolic part of both the mother and child and that it should be treated with respect and dignity. As a matter of fact, as a sign of gratefulness and for good fortune for the child's future, the afterbirth is taken out on the land to be buried and symbolically returned to Mother Earth. In the non-Native society the modern procedure is to have human remains, which is what afterbirth is considered, cremated. A traditional Elder would consider this disrespectful.

Our late grandmother Louise described a discarded or cremated placenta as something that becomes lost in the child's life. She explained that once this is lost without being returned to the earth properly, it becomes something that the child will seek out in his or her lifetime. In the Cree tradition, it was believed that the child who lost this privilege will wander aimlessly through life in search of something they can not have. It is important to have a properly buried afterbirth, as it will ensure that the child's life will be full, happy and connected to Mother Earth.

During Joe's first son Orion's birth, hospitals were less stringent when it came to taking the placenta home to continue practicing this tradition. However, with the arrival of his newest son, hospital regulations have changed. There are new rules that make it more difficult to take possession of the placenta and afterbirth.

I can understand why medical facilities need to keep strict rules on how to handle and release human remains to the public. This comes out of concern as to what purpose or use that these remains will be subjected to. However, I also believe that there should be a balance that respects the wishes of an Aboriginal family to ask for these parts in order to fulfill traditional ceremonies.

Our people have been following this ceremony for generations and we should not have to be forced to beg for what is rightfully ours. As a matter of fact the new rules make it necessary to ship the placenta and afterbirth to a funeral home and they must be picked up by the family there.

One way or the other Joe and Lynda will be taking Landyn's placenta and afterbirth home and they will perform this ancient ceremony. It would be a good idea for the powers that be to realize that First Nation people follow this traditional practice so that these rules can be changed or adapted to accommodate my people. This is a tradition that connects us to the land from birth.

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**ELECTION FOR THE OFFICE OF**

## YOUTH GRAND CHIEF/CHAIRPERSON

**OF THE CREE NATION YOUTH COUNCIL (EEYOU ISTCHEE)**

CREE NATION YOUTH COUNCIL (Eeyou Istchee)
CONSEIL DES JEUNES DE LA NATION CREE (Eeyou Istchee)

**CERTIFICATE OF RESULTS**

| CANDIDATES | TOTAL VOTES | PERCENTAGE |
|---|---|---|
| STACY BEAR | 423 | 35.55% |
| CHARLY WASHIPABANO | 366 | 30.76% |
| JEREMY DIAMOND | 262 | 22.02% |
| SUB-TOTAL: | 1190 | 100% |
| SPOILED BALLOTS | 139 | 2.78% |
| NUMBER OF VALID | 1051 | 21.02% |
| NUMBER OF USED BALLOTS | 1190 | 23.80% |
| UNUSED BALLOTS | 3810 | 76.20% |
| TOTAL BALLOTS | 5000 | 100% |

In accordance with the election results, I hereby declare that **Ms. Stacy Bear** is duly elected as Youth Grand Chief / Chairperson of the Cree Nation Youth Council (Eeyou Itschee).

And having signed on this 17th day of June 2008.

**EDNA L. NEEPOSH**
**Chief Electoral Officer**
**Witness**

**ANTHONY NEEPOSH**
**Assistant Electoral Officer**
**Witness**

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| CAMPING GRÉGOIRE (Lacolle, LAKE and BEACH, 15 minutes from Parc Safari) | (450) 246-3365 | $90*(1) | $139*(1) |
| CAMPING CANNE DE BOIS (Hemmingford, 5 minutes from Parc Safari, swimming pool and beach) | (450) 247-2831 | $100* | $141* |
| CAMPING PREMIER *** (Hwy.15/Exit 1, St-Bernard, 5 min. from Parc, with 2 services, outdoor pool) | 1 877 246-4887 | $100* | $141* |
| CAMPING COOLBREEZE (St-Bernard-de-Lacolle, 5 km from Parc Safari, with 2 services) | (450) 246-3785 | $101* | $142* |
| BISTEL ERIC DESCHAMPS (St-Bernard-de-Lacolle, 500 feet from Parc Safari, outdoor pool) | (450) 247-2346 | $140* | $201* |
| BISTEL RESTO-BAR LE DOUGLAS (Napierville, 10 minutes from Parc Safari) | 1 888 689-3363 | $140* | $181* |
| AUBERGE RELAIS 4 SAISONS III (Noyan, 15 minutes from Parc Safari, break incl., outdoor pool) | 1 877 294-2577 | $155* | $208* |
| MANOIR BAGNELL-HALL (Franklin, deluxe units, breakfast, outdoor pool) | (450) 827-2415 | $160* | $208* |
| AUBERGE HOTEL PREMIER III *** (Hwy.15/Exit 1, St-Bernard, 5 min. from Parc Safari, outdoor pool) | 1 877 246-4887 | $165*(1) | $208*(1) |
| COMFORT INN BROSSARD (continental breakfast incl.) | 1 877 266-3324 | $157* | $208* |
| HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS SAINT-JEAN-SUR-RICHELIEU (break. incl. / indoor pool & Spa) | 1 888 825-4466 | $167*(1) | $218*(1) |
| HOTEL LE DAUPHIN MONTREAL-LONGUEUIL (continental breakfast incl.) | 1 888 646-0110 | $167* | $208* |
| BEST WESTERN HOTEL NATIONAL BROSSARD (breakfast incl. / indoor pool) | 1 888 465-6041 | $160* | $210* |
| HOTEL GOUVERNEUR SAINT-JEAN-SUR-RICHELIEU (breakfast and dinner free for kids) | 1 888 867-3915 | $170* | $219* |
| HOLIDAY INN MONTRÉAL-LONGUEUIL **** (indoor pool, spa, gym / children eat free) | 1 888 253-0159 | $199* | $239* |

*Includes lodging for double or quadruple occupancy and admission for 2 people or 2 adults and 2 children (17 years and under) to Parc Safari for 2 consecutive days. Valid from June 21 to September 01, 2008, subject to availability. Off-season rates also available from May 16 to June 20, from August 25 to 29 and from September 02 to October 13, 2008. Taxes extra. *2-night packages also available.* (1)Rates starting at.


## LEGAL NOTICE

### Margerite Mary Icebound

Prenez avis que Margerite Mary Icebound, dont l'adresse du domicile est 82A rue Pine, Waswanipi, Quebec, présentera au Directeur de l'état civil une demande pour changer son nom en celui de Marjorie Mary Icebound.

## BIRTHDAYS

Someone very special in our lives will be celebrating his birthday on June 27th. We love you so much, you mean so much to us and we love every little thing you do for us. Take care Uncle Doug n enjoy your special day. Love, your niece Shania n nephews Aiden and Antoine.

A birthday wish to someone very special: my sister Amanda Coon-Come on June 18th, many more to come. Enjoy your special day Sista, as special as you are! 'Love ya! J Love always, from your "babey" sista, Judy Rose Trapper.

On July 1st, 2008, there's a special day for my niece Candace "Candi" Moar for her birthday. Wishing you happy birthday Girl! To my brother & sister-in-law John & Sharon Kanatewat for their wedding anniversary, happy anniversary! Hope you all celebrate & enjoy your special day & many, many more years to come. "Happy Canada Day!" from your aunt/sister Judy.

I would like to say happy birthday to Lorraine on July 1st & to Bella on July 12th, 2008. I want the whole wide world to know that you are the best sisters anyone could ask for. You both deserve a great day on your birthdays 'cause you guys are the best. Happy birthday to both of you and I love you both so much... Nii, your sis Sabrina xoxoxox (Wask)

Happy birthday to our eldest son, Israel, on July 31st. Wow! In 4 years, you'll be 18. Scary. Well, just remember we're right behind you in everything you do. 'Luv ya. Also, to our baby boy Soren Hayden, who will be turning 2 on July 23rd. He is our little red curly haired, smiley bundle of everything. Everyone just falls in love with him, especially girls, he is a chick magnet, right guys? I think Soren doesn't like that though, he doesn't like strangers,

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poor boy. Last but not least, congratulations to our hockey player Isaiah on his graduation from elementary. Keep them eyes on the goal of your future and you'll score that goal you've been aiming for. We are so proud of you. And have fun during hockey school this summer. Go Isaiah Go!! Happy belated birthday and we had fun karting didn't we? 'Love Mom & Dad.

## ANNIVERSARIES

Happy anniversary to Antonio & Sophie Bosum on July 31st; Darryl & Karen Hughboy on July 30th; Naomi & Norman Neeposh on July 27th; Sandy & Faith Coon-Come July 27th. And congrats to the newly weds, Lance & Gloria Cooper, Ron & Karen Simard, Benny & Rachel Blacksmith. Also, the upcoming weddings of Daniel & Blanche Bosum - soon to be, Waylon & Priscilla Martin-Hunter-to be. Did I miss anyone? Congratulation y'all, and remember that love is patient, love is kind, love is feeling like kicking that someone in the butt but you can't cuz you made a vow to love and to hold. Ha ha! From a friend in OJ!!

Happy anniversary! This month has the biggest day to remember! The month and year, June 28th, 1958, is when my grandparents Paul and Daisy Dick (Whapmagoostui) tied the knot. They will be celebrating their golden 50th anniversary". We wanna wish them happy 50th anniversary and many more years to come! Enjoy your time together on this special day! We miss you and love you lots! Love Always, Eastmainuuskow (Skyler) Boobity (Liberty), and Andrea Mamianskum. All the way from Eastmain, xoxoxox-oxoxoxo.

Congratulations to both of you! Special wishes going out to Ms.Vivian Coonishish and Mr. Victor Brien on their upcoming wedding on July 4, 2008. May God continue to bless you both as well as Iesha with good health, much love, and happiness. With lots of love and prayers, Gookum Mary, Emma, Simon, Louise, and Amy Matt.

## HOLIDAY GREETINGS

I would like to wish my dad Ronald Larry Trapper happy Father's Day! Happy Father's Day Dad! J I hope you had a great, beautiful day! 'Thinking of you on Father's Day. Take care Dad & Mom. 'Miss you guys! You guys don't grow old (too fast). Love you Mom & Dad! From your greatest "babey" daughter J Judy Rose Trapper.

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Where to get help: bilingual, anonymous, confidential and free phone services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Kid's Help Phone Line:** 1-800-668-6868 (www.kidshelpphone.ca)

**Youth helpline:** 1-800-263-2266 (www.teljeunes.com)

**Parent helpline:** 1-800-361-5085 (www.parenthelpline.ca)

**Drugs:** help and reference: 1-800-265-2626 (www.drogue-aideref-erence.qc.ca)

**Gambling:** help and reference: 1-800-265-2626 (www.info-refer-ence.qc.ca)

**S.O.S. Conjugal Violence:** 1-800-363-9010 (www.sosviolence-conjugale.com)

**Health and Sexuality resources center:** 1-888-855-7432 (Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm) (www.criss.org)

**Gay Helpline:** 1-888-505-1010 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)

**The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal:** 1-866-403-4688. (www.nwsm.info)

**Residential School Survivors:** A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available to provide immediate emotional assistance and can be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at: http://www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources.html.

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CAMPING COOLBREEZE (St-Bernard-de-Lacolle, 5 km du Parc Safari, avec 2 services) (450) 246-3785 101 $ 142 $
MOTEL ERIC DESCHAMPS (St-Bernard-de-Lacolle, 500 pi du Parc Safari, piscine ext.) (450) 247-2346 140 $ 201 $
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AUBERGE HÔTEL PREMIER INN ★★★ (Aut.15/sortie 1, St-Bernard, 5 min. du Parc Safari, piscine ext.) 1 877 246-4807 165 $(1) 208 $(1)
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HÔTEL LE DAUPHIN MONTRÉAL-LONGUEUIL (Petit-déjeuner continental inclus) 1 866 646-0110 167 $ 208 $
BEST WESTERN HÔTEL NATIONAL BROSSARD (déjeuner inclus, piscine intérieure) 1 800 465-0841 169 $ 210 $
HÔTEL GOUVERNEUR SAINT-JEAN-SUR-RICHELIEU (déj. et soupers gratuits pour les enfants) 1 800 667-3815 178 $ 219 $
HOLIDAY INN MONTRÉAL-LONGUEUIL ★★★★ (piscine int, spa, gym / les enfants mangent gratuitement) 1 800 263-0150 186 $ 239 $
* Incluant l'hébergement en occupation double ou quadruple et l'admission pour 2 personnes ou 2 adultes et 2 enfants (17 ans et moins) au Parc Safari 2 journées consécutives. Valide du 21 juin au 01 septembre 2008, selon disponibilité. Tarification basse saison aussi disponible du 16 mai au 20 juin, du 25 au 29 août et du 02 septembre au 13 octobre 2008. Taxes en sus. Possibilité de séjour de 2 nuits. (1) Tarif à partir de.

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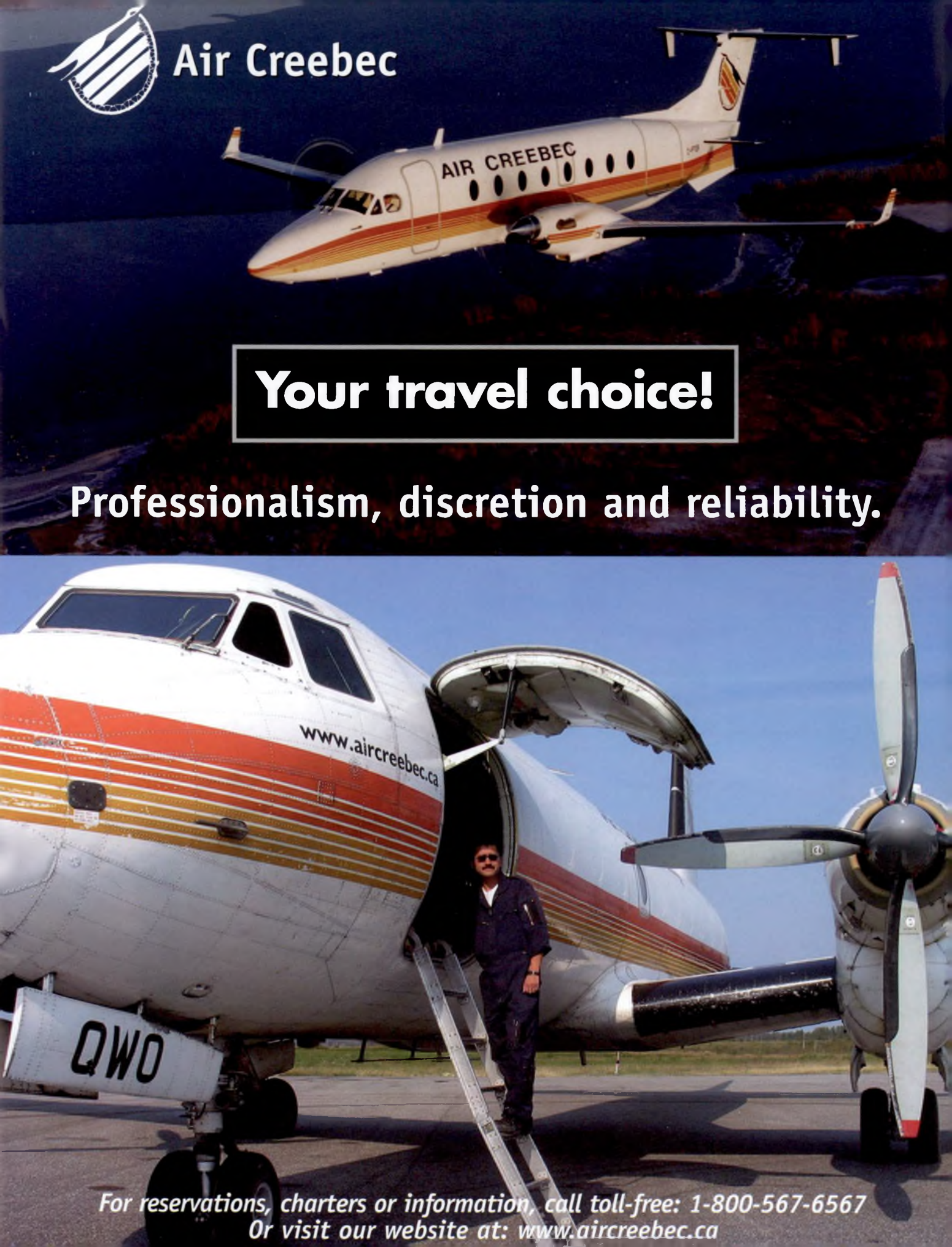
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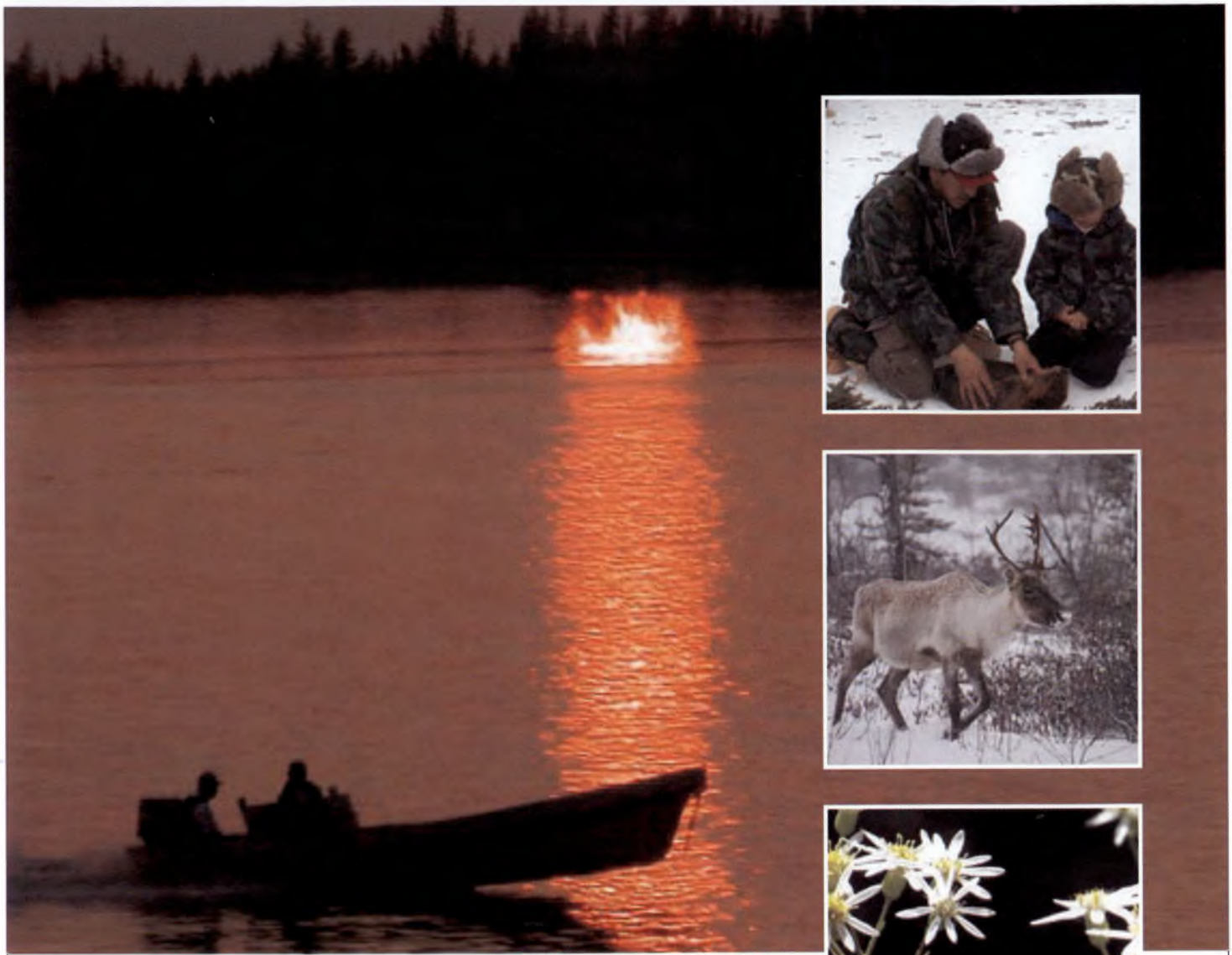

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**www.hydroquebec.com/rupert/en**

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